

MILES UNDER WATER.

A Half Hour's Stroll on the Floor of the Ocean.

WEIRD SIGHTS AND SCENES.

Annals of Water Darker Than Ever—How the Fishes of the Ocean Behave on Night and Day.

HAT IS IT LIKE at the bottom of the sea—in the unfathomed depths, that is to say, five miles below the surface of the ocean?

If you mean to ask what is the aspect of things on the ocean floor, so far down, it is only possible to reply that there is none.

The darkness of that watery world is as black as ink, no ray of sunlight, no ray of starlight pierces the aqueous gloom from above.

Even were there a light you could hardly make an observation, inasmuch as the pressure of the superabundant weight of water is at least three tons to the square inch and would crush your body like an egg shell into a shapeless mass.

But suppose, just for fun, that you were able to descend five miles to the ocean bottom at its greatest depth and survey your surroundings with the aid of some brilliant artificial light.

To begin with, you gaze with curiosity upon the ground beneath your feet. You find that it is composed of a grayish mixture of minute shells and mud. The shells are those of little animals called rhizopods, which live near the surface, and, dying, sink to the bottom, thus paying with their remains a tribute to the ocean floor.

Everywhere this floor is formed composed of the same shelly material, stretching for miles after miles in every direction, which, in their turn, are the remains of plants and animals that have lived and died there.

What most attracts you about this strange scene is its frightful desolation. It is a desert of interminable extent, where nothing grows. Not a blade or sprout of any sort of vegetation is to be discovered, for the simple reason that there is no sunlight to support vegetable life.

There are, however, a few plants and animals that have adapted themselves to this gloomy and lifeless world. They are the fishes of the depths, absolute and unbroken by sound of any sort.

There is not even the sound of the waves with their muffled voices above, for there is not even the murmur of a wavelet to cheer your awful solitude.

And yet you are not alone. The great fishes of the ocean bottom are about you. They are the fishes of the depths, absolute and unbroken by sound of any sort. They are the fishes of the depths, absolute and unbroken by sound of any sort.

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REAL ESTATE GOSSIP.

The Large Number of New Houses Erected to Supply the Demand.

THE OFFICIAL RECORDS SHOW OF THE BUILDING OPERATIONS THIS YEAR AS COMPARED WITH LAST. THE ANNUAL RY FOR HOUSES FAIRLY DISAGREES—OTHER MATTERS OF INTEREST.

Building activity in this city continues about the same throughout all the year except at intervals during the winter season when the weather is such that all outdoor work is brought to a standstill.

The records of the building inspector's office show that the number of permits for new buildings taken out for each month of the present calendar year and the corresponding months of the previous year:

Table with 2 columns: Month, 1890, 1889. Rows: January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, Total.

It is estimated that the number of permits taken out for new buildings are for houses. On this basis it will be seen that the number of new buildings have been erected or are in progress of erection in the District since the beginning of the present year.

The remaining months of the year will witness a very active period of building, and the year is safe to say the addition to the house capacity of the city will be relatively large.

This comparison of the building operations for a portion of two years shows no unusual feature. The number of new buildings erected here annually for a period of years past. Since 1880 a year has not passed without the erection of buildings in the District.

LOOKING FOR A HOME. The annual fair for homes has begun, and soon as the weather grows a little cooler the list of September arrives then people begin to think about looking around for winter quarters.

There is always a certain percentage of householders who make annual changes in their place of residence. Sometimes they have the habit of moving to a new place every year, and sometimes they move only once in a year.

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MUSCACHED MEMBERS.

Representatives and Senators and Their Hirsute Ornaments.

THE BEARD IN CONGRESS.

Some Muscaches That are Really Stunning—Men Who Shave Their Upper Lip Only, and Others Whose Masterful Faces Are Shaved Smooth.

IT IS MOST INTERESTING to look down from the press gallery of the House of Representatives upon that great national assembly in session and observe the various peculiarities of whisker, beard and mustache as they appear in the members.

Take Tom Reed, the Speaker, for instance. You will notice that his mustache is decidedly the poorest affair of his kind in the House. It is rather undergrown, stubby and turned down at the corners of the mouth; in fact, its owner would be a better looking man without it.

Abner Taylor of Illinois has one of the handsomest mustaches in the House. It is a thick, wavy, black growth, which covers the upper lip and extends down the sides of the face. It is a real ornament to his face.

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WEE WILLIE WINKIE.

BY RUDYARD KIPLING.

"An officer and a gentleman." "IS FULL NAME was Percival William Williams, but he picked up the other name in a nursery book and that was the end of the christened title."

His mother's ayah called him Willie Baba, but, as he never paid the faintest attention to anything the ayah said, her wisdom did not help matters.

His father was colonel of the one hundred and ninety-fifth, and it was Willie Winkie who was made to understand that military discipline meant Col. Williams put him under it.

There was no other way of making the child. When he was good for a week he drew good-conduct pay, and when he was bad he was deprived of his good-conduct stripe.

Generally he was bad, for India offers so many opportunities for mischief. He was good only during the tumultuous times earlier in the season, when Reed insisted upon counting a good-conduct stripe for every day of good behavior.

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